

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Examiner has entered the amendment filed by Applicants on June 17, 2004.
- Claims 1-10, 14, 15, 22-31 and 34 are pending in the Application.
- Claims 11-13, 16-21, and 32-33 remain cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-10, 14-15, 22-31, and 34 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/717,645 in view of U.S. Patent 5,649,200 to Leblang et al. As stated in the Office Action Response dated June 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully defer their response to the merits of the provisional rejection until the allegedly conflicting claims in one of the subject cases are allowed.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 16, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US. Pat. No. 5,649,200 to Leblang et al. Applicants note that Claims 16, 17, 20 and 21 remain cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer after the June 17, 2004 amendment.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 14, 22, 24-27, 29-31, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,649,200 to Leblang et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,890,166 to Eisenberg et al.

Claims 2, 7, 15, 23, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,649,200 to Leblang et al. and U.S. Patent 5,890,166 to Eisenberg et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,862,325 to Reed et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(e) rejections as in the July 17, 2004 response with the following additional arguments.

Applicants believe that the examiner possibly analogizes the link set data structure to the Leblang view, the link content data structure to the Leblang configuration record (532), the link set reference field to the Leblang link (530) of Figures 20 and 23, and a set of project management objects to the Leblanc derived objects (500) from a VOB database. (Reference Page 5, Item 7 of Office Action dated 3/23/04.) However, the cross-descriptive analogy fails because the invention of Leblanc requires more than the current invention invokes.

The Leblang view allows a user to “see different versions of the same elements, under exactly the same pathnames” (Leblanc col. 9 lines 14-15). Applicants note that the Leblang view requires a set of rules called a configuration specification (config spec) (230 Fig. 6) (Col. 9 lines 25-27.) These Version Selection Rules (230, Fig. 60) are utilized in each time an calls an element in the preferred Leblang embodiment. Col. 9 lines 25-33 of Leblanc states:

A view's configuration is defined by a set of rules called a configuration specification (config spec) (230 FIG. 6). For instance, in the preferred UNIX embodiment each time a program performs a UNIX `open (2)` call on an element, a "view.sub.-- server" process for that view consults the rules in its config spec, decides which version of the element to select from the VOB, and performs the operation on that version. (col. 9 lines 25-33).

Applicants note that no such Version Selection Rules (230) are recited in the pending claims and no such “configuration specification 230” is needed in the present invention. Also, Leblanc states that “Typically, a view's configuration is defined in terms of wildcards (file name patterns) and mnemonic names, not by naming specific versions.” (Col. 9 lines 46-48). The claims of the present invention contain no such views, Version Selection Rules, wildcards, or mnemonics.

Since both the link set data structure (Figure 3, item 300 of the present application) and the link content data structure (Figure 3, item 320 of the present application) are well defined data structures that are absent from Leblanc, and the link set (300) and link content (320) data structures are without Version Selection Rules and are not “wildcards or mnemonic names”, then the analogy of either the link set 300 or link content 320 data structures corresponding to the Leblanc “view” fails. Applicants submit that the pending claims are functional and enabled by the present application without the Version Selection

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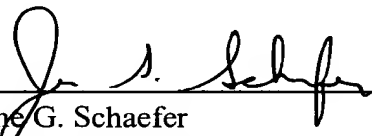
Rules required in Leblanc. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims patentably define over Leblanc.

Applicants also submit that Eisenberg and Reed fail to teach or suggest a link set data structure (300) and a link content data structure (320) as recited with the other elements in the pending claims. Leblanc cannot remain operational without the Version Selection Rules absent from the pending claims. Accordingly, Leblanc, Eisenberg and Reed, either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements as recited in the pending claims. As a result, Leblanc, Eisenberg and Reed cannot render obvious the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of the pending claims as these claims patentably define over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of the present Application and also submit that the present Application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully and earnestly solicit an early Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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Jerome G. Schaefer
Registration No. 50,800

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439